

VIETNAM COURIER

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UP TO FEBRUARY 12, 1968

2,753 U.S. Planes
BROUGHT DOWN IN D.R.V.N.

☆

SOUTH Vietnam

SAIGON, CHOLON, HUE: People's Forces Hold Many Town Districts and Precincts.

- * A U.S. Battalion and a U.S. Armoured Company Wiped Out at Bau Bang (50 Km North of Saigon).
- * N.F.L. Declares Support to "Alliance of National Forces for Independence and Peace".
- * Breaking Up of Puppet Armed Forces and Administration Continues at Quick Tempo.
- * South Viet Nam People's General Offensive Wins Worldwide Applause.

EDITORIAL

A revolutionary storm is raging over South Viet Nam. An all-out, concerted, prolonged offensive has shaken the American and puppet structure down to its foundation. The enemy has been driven into an impasse. A new stage of revolutionary onslaught has begun.

Unprecedented successes of great military and political significance have

been achieved in all fields.

Never has the history of the Vietnamese nation's struggle against foreign aggression known such a powerful offensive, one that shows such a big scope, such good co-ordination, and such varied aspects. Worth noticing is the fact that the heavy repression apparatus in enemy-occupied towns and areas—one soldier for

every four inhabitants—has not been able to stem the revolutionary tide. The revolutionary armed forces and people have attacked cities, airfields, military bases, and achieved great victories within a very short time. They have occupied important sectors in the large cities of Saigon, Cholon, Hue, encircled and threatened Da Nang, won control over scores of towns and townslets. The capture of Lang Vay, an American outpost in the region of Khe Sanh, has thrown the American Command into confusion.

After the first six days of fighting, more enemy regiments and battalions have been annihilated than during the five months of the winter 1965-spring 1966 campaign. Within six days, one-fifth of enemy activities in South Viet Nam have disbanded.

One knows the great importance attached by the American, satellite and puppet troops to modern war material, fire power and logistical support without which no military operation of any scope could be launched by them. And yet, within six days, 1,500 planes and helicopters, one-third of the air force operating in Viet Nam, and 4,000 military vehicles have been destroyed or damaged. More than one million of tons of bombs and ammunition have been captured or have gone up in smoke



(Continued page 7)

◀ P.I.A.F. mortar in action

UPRISING IN FREE MARKETS OF SOUTH VIET NAM

P.L.A.F. fighters

HUE, the former feudal capital, is today the seat of many central organs of the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen in Central Viet Nam. The enemy has taken stringent security precautions to defend it, yet it is being rocked by the impact of the stormy attack by the revolutionary armed forces and the "springing of the local people."

2:45 a.m. on January 31, 1968, the gunfire of the P.L.A.F. broke the customary silence of this city in union with the powerful onslaught on the enemy in the town of Phloia, Kontum and Ban Me Thuot on the Western High Plateau. Gay Nhon, Nha Trang, Tay Hoa in Southern Trang Bo, Vinh Long, Tra Vinh, Can Tho, Soc Trang and Bac Lieu in the Mekong Delta. Guided and assisted by the local people and many patriotic soldiers in the puppet army, the Liberation forces pressed their attacks on all sectors of the city and after 35 minutes the enemy was forced into complete passivity and their resistance quickly wore out. In the northern sector, the Mang Ca position and the headquarters of the puppet 1st Division quickly fell into the hands of the Liberation forces. In the southern sector, the P.L.A.F. completely wiped out the 7th puppet Armoured Regiment at Tam Thai Mount. Many positions and important offices of the puppet army and administration along the Perfume River came one after another under the control of the Liberation forces. The Thuan Hoa Hotel in the eastern sector of the city which served as a billet for the American troops was also occupied. By 9 a.m. the P.L.A.F. had the city firmly under their control. In co-ordination with the initial military successes was the irresistible uprising of the Hue people and the crushing over to the revolution, any side of many officers and men of the Saigon puppet army. The people beating drums and torches poured into the streets and tracked down the recalcitrant thugs and traitors with a long record of crimes against the people. In a matter of hours, the apparatus of control and oppression of the enemy in the town and the outlying areas crumbled. The N.F.L. flag fluttered high on the flagpole of the ancient imperial citadel where the red golden-starred flag of the Vietnamese revolution had made its first appearance in Hue during the memorable day in August of the General Insurrection in August

HUE The "Imperial City" Is Up

1945. Many demonstrations of the Hue people were staged amidst the rumble of cannons and the clatter of small arms fire. Mingling with the gun report were the shouts demanding the overthrow of the Thieu-Ky traitorous administration, cessation of the U.S. war and withdrawal of U.S. troops so that the Vietnamese might settle their own affairs themselves.

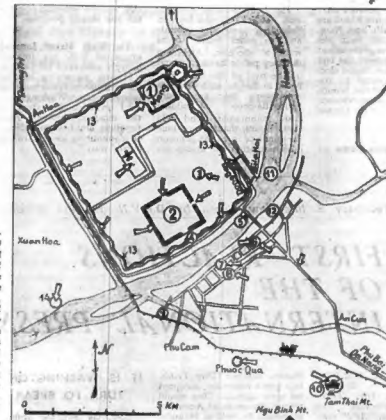
The days that followed were a sequence of victories of the revolutionary forces. The Front of Alliance for National Independence, Democracy and Peace of the city came into being and issued an appeal to the armed forces and people in the city to continue to push ahead and deal yet heavier blows at the U.S. aggressors and the Thieu-Ky clique of traitors. In the town districts loudspeakers made a persistent call on the officers and men in the puppet army and personnel of the puppet administration to come back to the people and join in the fight against the U.S. aggressors and for national salvation. The appeal found wider and wider response. At a post of the puppet army guarding the Bach Ho Bridge, many soldiers of the besieged garrison crossed over to the revolutionary forces, bringing along their weapons. Others simply deserted and returned to their families. In some puppet units which received orders to

go to the rescue of the battered units, many officers and soldiers refused to obey, and thus the plan of their commanding officers could not be implemented. At the provincial prison many patriotic guards killed the jailers and helped 2,000 detainees to break free as soon as the revolutionary armed forces began to push into the town. While the enemy was caught off guard on the military front and driven into a corner on the political front, the action of the puppet soldiers and personnel on this third front threw him into utter confusion, nearly crippling his forces. He was at a loss how to cope with the situation and he had therefore almost no kick left.

Infuriated by these bitter defeats, the U.S. aggressors, dropping their masks, nastily bombed and strafed many districts in the Hue citadel, destroying many palaces and cultural relics of the Vietnamese people, demolishing whole blocks of dwelling houses and massacring large numbers of civilians. In their despair they resorted to terror to weaken the fighting spirit of the people and revolutionary armed forces in Hue but what they obtained was exactly the opposite.

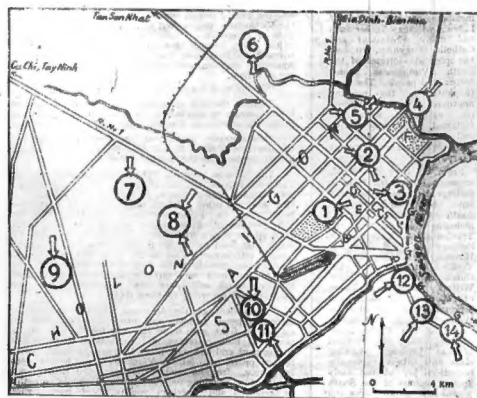
According to the first statistics, for the first five days of the fight from

January 31 to February 3, the revolutionary armed forces and people in Hue wiped out many key positions and headquarters of the enemy, defeated many of their rescue operations, wiped out or decimated 3 armoured regiments of the U.S. and puppet, 7 puppet battalions, 10 companies and 10 platoons of "civil guards", militia, combat police, destroyed or shot down more than 30 aircraft, destroyed or captured more than 50 military vehicles, a large quantity of guns and ammunition (including a self-propelled gun), such two were seized 5 stores of arms and military equipment, blew up 5 major bridges in and around the town. In addition, the revolutionary forces in Hue captured more than 500 puppet troops, an entire U.S. platoon, a score U.S. "advisers" and a U.S. colonel.



1. Mang Ca barracks — 2. Old Imperial Palace — 3. Meit Thuc Loan Street in which a platoon of U.S. infantrymen and a U.S. colonel were captured on Feb. 4, 1968 — 4. Flagpole of the old Imperial Palace where the N.F.L. flag was hoisted in the morning of the uprising — 5. Trang Tin Bridge — 6. Thuan Hoa Hotel — 7. U.S. officers' billet — 8. Residence of the provincial governor — 9. Provincial prison — 10. Headquarters of the puppet 7th Armoured Regiment — 11. February 4th of the puppet 7th Armoured Regiment were sunk — 12. Le Loi cemetery of the puppet army — 13. U.S. officers' billet on Feb. 4; one enemy armoured transporter, two tanks and a self-propelled gun were wiped out and 4 tanks and a self-propelled gun were captured — 14. A victim of the revolutionary forces on enemy rescue parties.

SAIGON in the Revolutionary Storm



- Arrows show enemy positions attacked:
- (1) Thieu's "Presidential" Palace — (2) U.S. Embassy — (3) H.Q. of puppet Navy — (4) Base of puppet Marines — (5) Saigon Broadcasting Station — (6) H.Q. of puppet Inter-Arms Command — (7) Military guard — (8) H.Q. of Saigon military region — (9) Race course — (10) Police Directorate General — (11) Saigon Police H.Q. — (12) (13) (14) Warehouses.

- Guiding marks:
- (A) Central Station — (B) Central Market — (C) Municipal Theatre — (D) Cathedral — (E) Townhall — (F) Zoological and Botanical Garden — (G) Wharves.

SAI GON, capital of the puppet regime, shelters key positions of the Thieu-Ky administration and of the U.S. machine of aggression. Protected by stringent security precautions against popular uprisings and eventual patches, it has all the same been shaken by the revolutionary storm that has been sweeping across South Viet Nam.

Within the first two days of the people's offensive, on January 31 and February 1, 1968, nearly all the enemy leading bodies and important military posts were hit, several centres were besieged for hours. The Palace of Independence, the American Embassy, the seats of the puppet General Staff, of the puppet Paratroop Command, of the Saigon area Military Command, of the puppet Police Directorate General and of the Saigon Police, the H.Q. of the Chi Hoa military sector, the broadcasting station, Tan Son Nhut air port... were fiercely attacked.

Communist groups broke into the American Embassy reported an impenetrable fortress and occupied up to the fifth floor. The Palace of Independence, seat of the puppet "President," was strongly shaken by repeated assaults. Radio Saigon—stormed and destroyed—had to be replaced by another broadcasting station of the army. Central districts 1, 2 and 3 were hit with bursts of gunfire while other districts in the suburbs were captured by revolutionary forces.

The people inflicted huge punishment on traitors and smashed big chunks of the puppet administration in the town and in neighbouring areas. Remarkably enough, enemy propaganda and some

Western information agencies bitterly dubbed Saigonese patriots "Viet Cong collaborators," thus acknowledging the failure of patient efforts made by the aggressors and their henchmen to drive a wedge between the people and the revolutionary armed forces, to "scop up water and catch the fish." The emergence of the Alliance of National Forces for Independence and Peace with its urgent appeal for national salvation had a profound impact.

The revolutionary tide rapidly surged over the areas west of the Saigon River. On February 5, 1968, the people's forces controlled Districts 6, 7 and 8, occupied a number of commanding organs, populous areas and key military positions in Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (the seat of the General Staff, streets next to the Phu Tho race-course, Hang Khanh north of the broadcasting station, the Y-shaped bridge joining Districts 5 and 8...).

In the revolutionary-controlled quarters, people's courts set to try puppet thugs and traitors, youths asked to enlist in the insurgent forces, many puppet military rebelled and crossed over to the people's side. A people's supply network was immediately set up. Strong defence works for a long struggle were rapidly built.

Saigon again experienced the stirring atmosphere of the Revolution in August 1945. The U.S.-puppet apparatus of oppression has badly been damaged. The Saigonese people will give bitterer lessons to the aggressors and their henchmen.

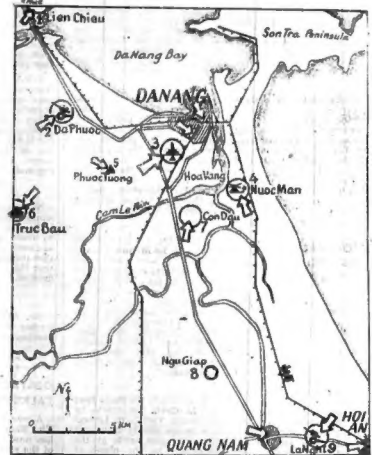
DA NANG is a city of 84 square kilometers with 770,000 inhabitants and one of the two largest ports in Central Trang Bo. Running through Da Nang are National Highway No. 1 which formerly linked Saigon, Hue and Hanoi, and the Trans-Viet Nam railway.

Because Da Nang holds such a favourable position, the American aggressors have turned it into a military complex accommodating their naval, ground and air forces. Three kilometres southwest of the city is the U.S. strategic airbase, the biggest in South Viet Nam: 5 km to the south is the Nuoc Man airfield of U.S. Marines. In the northwest is the Lien Chieu petrol depot and the Da Phuoc artillery position and Hanoi missile site. In addition, a system radar, search-light and infra-red intelligence device is installed around Da Nang base. Garrisoned in the city are U.S. infantry, tanks and armoured units. Yet the enemy in Da Nang are unable to avert the punishment meted out by the South Viet Nam P.L.A.F.

At dawn on Jan. 30 in co-ordination with the gunfire opened on the enemy by the South Vietnamese armed forces and people on all battlefields, the revolutionary armed forces inside and outside the city sprang into action together with the local people, and dealt crushing blows at the aggressors and their puppets. At the U.S. air base, 70 aircraft were destroyed. The H.Q. of the puppet First Army Corps was completely overrun. Heavy losses were inflicted on puppet Ranger Battalions 21 which offered still resistance. The Lien Chieu petrol depot was in a blaze throughout the day. Other enemy military installations

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DA NANG Wins Unprecedented Successes



1. Fuel depots — 2 and 3. Gun emplacements — 4. Airfield — 5. Helicopter parking ground — 6. 7 and 8. Enemy's positions — 9. A U.S. armoured unit base.

P.L.A.F. AND REVOLUTIONARY FORCES ATTACK FURIOUSLY IN ALL THEATRES OF OPERATIONS

SAIGON: Revolutionary Forces Hold 3 Districts and Continue Their Attacks in Other Districts.

HUE: The City Held by the People — 1 Battalion, 1 Company of 15 Vehicles, 1 Company and 400 Enemy Soldiers, Including 300 Tanks, Wiped Out on Feb. 7, 8 and 9.

GIA DINH: 2 Puppet Battalions Put out of Action at the Gates of Saigon on Feb. 6.

THU DAU MOT: 1 Battalion of U.S. First Infantry Division Wiped Out at Ban Bang, 50Km North of Saigon (Feb. 8).

In Saigon, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported, following the general offensive and simultaneous uprisings which took place since the night of Jan. 30, 1968 throughout South Viet Nam, the revolutionary forces and people of Saigon attacked the enemy unrelentingly, fought off all his counter-offensives and continued to control the districts they had seized.

On Feb. 2, the revolutionary forces attacked the enemy on two bridges near Phu Tho race-course, south-west of the city, wiping out one platoon, destroying one armoured car and 2 military vehicles and capturing many enemy soldiers. Another column of the revolutionary army stormed an enemy post on Highway 5, putting to flight soldiers of other posts in the vicinity.

These districts 6, 7 and 8, west of Saigon, from Phu Tho race-course to the Y-shaped bridge linking District 2 to Districts 4 and 8 were put under the control of the revolutionary forces.

The same day, areas in the southern part of District 4, from the Y-shaped bridge to the Saigon river banks, came under the control of the revolutionary forces. In this district, the enemy only held the areas along the river banks where warehouses were located. Furthermore, the revolutionary forces attacked the enemy in many streets in District 3 in the north of the city and in District 5, between Saigon and Cholon. 2 enemy companies trying to take an area in District 6 were routed.

On Feb. 6, the revolutionary forces wiped out a U.S. company operating in District

7, and inflicted heavy losses on another enemy column in District 5. After this serious setback, the enemy carried out dastardly retaliation on the inhabitants by burning houses in the centre of the city. But the more savage the enemy, the deeper the hatred of the people. On that night, with the assistance of the local people, the revolutionary forces overran a post in District 7 defended by a company of puppet-combat troops.

To close co-ordination with the armed forces and

people of Saigon, on Feb. 5 and 6 the revolutionaries seized and controlled the areas they had occupied in *Gia Dinh* province close to Saigon; they repelled an enemy column raiding a locality of Go Vap District, put out of action a unit of the enemy's "strategic reserves" composed of one battalion of Marines, one reinforced battalion of paratroopers and one armoured unit, destroyed 13 armoured cars, downed 1 aircraft causing over a thousand

casualties among the enemy including over 900 puppet Marines.

On Feb. 6, at 8 p.m. the revolutionary forces won complete control of Ca Chi townlet, 30km northwest of Saigon, destroying the police H.Q., a reconnaissance post, barracks of the special forces, and the posts defending the residence of the district chief. The enemy military training centre in this district was also attacked and was on fire for two hours running.

In Hue city, on Feb. 7, the revolutionaries inflicted heavy losses on the enemy in four engagements. In the first one, a battalion of

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These guerrillas have just destroyed an enemy armoured car

REVOLUTIONARY STORM VIOLENTLY SHAKES U.S. AGGRESSORS' LAST PROPS

ACCORDING to *AFP* (Feb. 7, 1968), on the eighth day of the general attack launched by the revolutionary armed forces in South Viet Nam, puppet Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky acknowledged that out of the 9 districts in Saigon, 2 belonged to the "blue area" (area under control of the puppet army-Ed.) while 7 districts are "red" (that is under control of the revolutionary forces-Ed.). U.S. and puppet pipes had to strike the very last of the regime. The smoke-screen of the U.S.-puppet machine of psychological war could not hide from world opinion two hard facts in South Viet Nam: a large scale people's uprising and the irremediable disintegration of the puppet army.

A WIDESPREAD REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT

In Saigon, while revolutionary forces were attacking key positions of the U.S.-puppet war machine, the people rose to crush the puppet administration in many districts and arrest puppet agents and spies. People's courts sat on the spot to try those who had blood debts to pay to the people. With the help of the population which fought and supplied ammunition and food

to revolutionary troops, the latter were able to raid many places and rapidly liberate whole areas. A *UPI* correspondent reported from Cholon that Buddhist monks donning grey robes shot at the police and even young "boogies" picked up ammunition for the "Viet Cong" (i.e. the revolutionary forces-Ed.). *Reuters* (Feb. 5, 1968) laid stress on the significant fact that "Viet Cong enjoyed the support of many Saigonese in the struggle for the just cause; the Viet Cong recruited many supporters in Saigon."

Such things also happened in Hue, an important political centre in the North of South Viet Nam. Responding to the appeal from the Front of Alliance for National Independence, Democracy and Peace, the masses stood up and encircled puppet offices and arrested puppet agents. In no time the machine of oppression was smashed. The N.F.L. flag fluttered over the citadel. French and U.S. troops were again pointed out the presence of insurgent students and pupils, a force which had for years been struggling against the Saigon regime. *Giai Phong* Press Agency also reported that over 1,000 young students and pupils, had participated in the uprising on February 1, 2 and 3. *AFP* of

Feb. 7 related that after a night's fighting, 90 per cent of the people sided with the revolution.

The revolutionary tide swept over 40 towns and provincial capitals and hundreds of district capitals and other townships south of the 17th parallel, as far as Cape Ca Mau. The people by the hundred thousand times and again came out and cut off communication and encircled enemy posts and military sectors. On Feb. 2, in Ben Tre province, the "Long -bow of women" made up of women demonstrated before the post at Sai Son, forced its garrison into surrender, captured its ammunition depot and distributed its arms to the people. On Jan. 1, in My Tho province, the puppet administration in the neighbouring area of the provincial capital was overthrown, 7 posts or watchtowers wiped out.

The widespread uprising of the urban people which accelerated an unprecedented revolutionary tide has been speeding up the irremediable collapse of the puppet administration.

BIG WAVES OF MUNITY

ACCORDING to foreign news agencies, men in puppet uniforms attacked the U.S. Embassy in

Saigon, helped by its own chauffeurs.

Giai Phong Press Agency reported that puppet military had rebelled and participated in the attack on Saigon and joined the people to arrest spies and wicked thugs. In Bien Hoa, a number of officers of the 3rd Battalion (Regiment 48, Division 18) turned their guns on U.S. "advisers" and recalcitrant thugs, then crossed over to the people's side. In Thu Dau Mot province (North of Saigon) and in the district of Cao Lanh (Sa Dec), Duc Hoa, Can Giuoc (Long An) puppet officers and soldiers together with revolutionary forces raided enemy C.P.'s and offices. In other provinces, they sided with the population in overthrowing the puppet administration and setting up the people's power. The garrisons of 10 posts in Rach Gia and 5 posts in Vinh Long (Mekong Delta) surrendered their weapons to the people and fought at their side. According to the Commander of the N.P.L. Armed Forces High Command during the first six days of the general offensive, soldiers in 166 posts rebelled and went over to the revolutionary forces.

Remarkable is the fact that all the officers and soldiers of Battalion 3 (Regiment 33, Division 21) garrisoned at Soc

Trang city rose up, occupied the arsenal, distributed weapons to the people and joined the revolutionary forces in attacking many places in the town.

Many puppet soldiers took advantage of the general uprising to desert their units or to stay at home after the expiration of their Lunar New Year Festival leaves.

The puppet army suffered a major crisis with the disappearance of 200,000 troops, the wiping out of 40,000 men, the attack and destruction of most of its key organizations.

WHILE the White House and the Thieu-Ky clique tried their best to hide their bitter failure in South Viet Nam, Senator Mansfield reneged on Feb. 2 that the general attack and uprising of the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces was undermining the Saigon government and proved that Vietcong were enjoying maximum support from the population.

In face of the revolutionary storm, the puppet army and administration in the supports of Washington in its neo-colonialist war of aggression in South Viet Nam, are rapidly collapsing, which will precipitate the irremediable face of the U.S. aggressors.